

In contrast, the present invention is directed to a data reproducing operation. When there is a failure in the reading of a mark from a particular data region, the recording state in an adjacent region situated next to this failed region is changed so as to reduce cross talk caused by the adjacent region, i.e., the invention assumes the failure was caused by cross talk from the adjacent region. After the recording state of the adjacent region has been changed, the mark in the data region is read again. In other words, Tokumitsu does not disclose or suggest reading a mark from a region, and changing the recording state in the adjacent region situated next to this region when the reading fails. For these reasons, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-9 are allowable over Tokumitsu et al.

Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable Tokumitsu et al. in view of Matsumoto et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons given with respect to claim 1 from which claims 4-6 depend.

Moreover, even if the cited references were combined, it would not have been obvious to derive the present invention. Matsumoto discloses a method for increasing the density of a disk by narrowing the groove pitch and increasing the groove depth. Matsumoto merely describes a static method for increasing density. This does not disclose or suggest dynamically changing the recording state in an adjacent region for purposes of reducing cross talk. Reduction of cross talk is not even contemplated in either of the cited references. For these reasons, claims 4-6 are allowable over the cited references.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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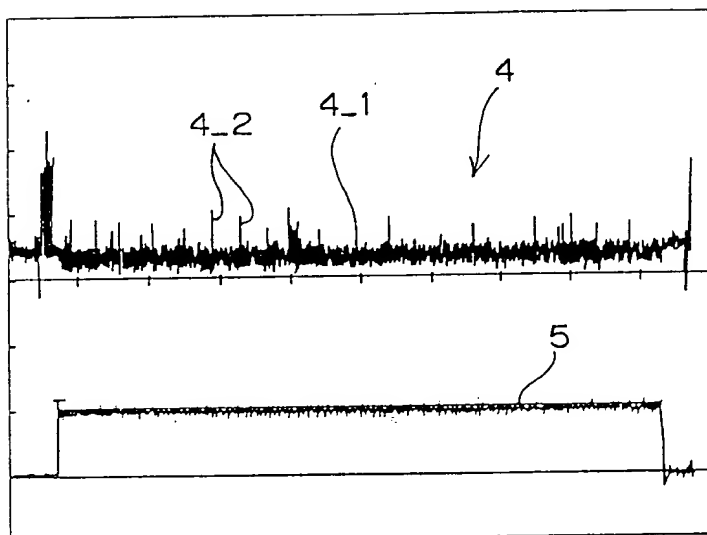


Fig. 2  
PRIOR ART

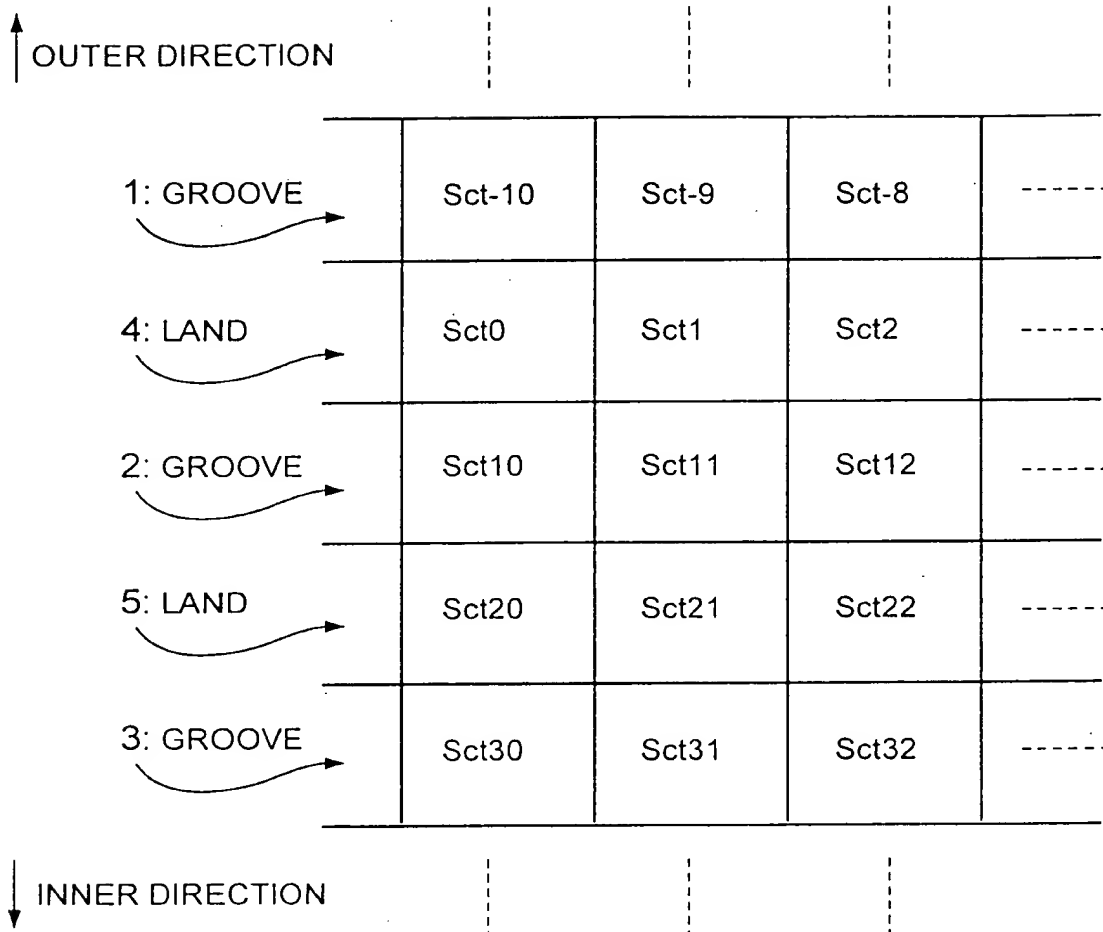
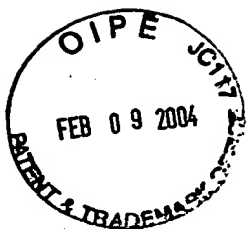
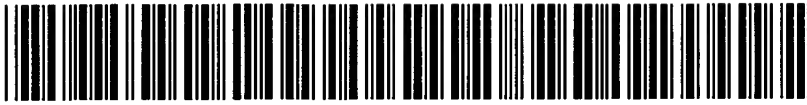


Fig. 1  
PRIOR ART



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